

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1 - 6 (Canceled)

7. (New) A method for operating an appliance, comprising:
subjecting items retained in the appliance to a drying step after the items have undergone a treatment step as a result of which moisture remains on the items, the step of drying including conducting air from a treatment chamber via a conduit system in which both ends of at least one heat pipe protrude, thereafter conducting the air through the at least one heat pipe, and recirculating the air back to the treatment chamber, whereupon, during the passage of the air between its exit of the treatment chamber and its recirculation to the treatment chamber, the air is cooled, moisture is removed from the air, and the air is subsequently reheated.
8. (New) The method according to claim 7, wherein the air is conveyed by means of a fan.
9. (New) The method according to claim 7, wherein the air is cooled by means of the heat pipe.
10. (New) The method according to claim 7, wherein the air is heated by means of the heat pipe.
11. (New) The method according to claim 7, wherein the air is heated by means of a heater.
12. (New) The method according to claim 7, wherein the air is passed by a condenser.